

devastates, even destroys, the ability of high-prevalence communities to address needs is unacceptable.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues on a fair, openminded, non-partisan, practical solution—in the spirit of the original bill that brought people together to develop a strategy to combat this horrible epidemic that has caused so much death and destruction, destroyed so many lives, created such a challenge to our health care system and our basic values.

Mr. President, we can do this if we really want to. All it takes is narrowing the gap between these two lines on the chart—HIV/AIDS cases and the amount of funding available. Some of the priorities on which we are asked to vote in this Chamber certainly don't reflect the pressing needs I have heard described in this Chamber. I hope we can come up with a real solution for the Ryan White CARE Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a disease that has touched many American families. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women. More women are living with breast cancer than any other cancer.

Three million women are living with breast cancer in the United States, 2 million of which have been diagnosed and 1 million who don't know they have the disease. Over 40,000 women will have died from breast cancer this year alone. It is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women between the ages of 20 and 59.

What is the Senate doing about breast cancer? Some of you may know that I have a bill, S. 757, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bill was first introduced on March 23, 2000, in the 106th Congress. Since that time, the bill has been introduced in the 107th Congress, where it had 44 bipartisan cosponsors and was on the verge of being included in the Women's Health Act of 2002 when negotiations broke down. In the 108th Congress, the bill again had tremendous bipartisan support, with 60 cosponsors. But again we did not act on the bill, which brings me to the current situation in the 109th Congress.

The bill now has 66 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and 255 cosponsors in the House. Thanks to the support and leadership of Chairman MICHAEL ENZI of the HELP Committee, this bill was reported unanimously by the committee on July 24, 2006. The bill was hotlined for floor consideration before the August recess, but it has not received Senate passage.

We as a Senate are denying millions of American women diagnosed with breast cancer the answers that might lead to a better understanding and perhaps a cure to this disease.

How can a bill with 66 cosponsors that was reported unanimously by the HELP Committee not be taken up and approved by the Senate?

This bill provides a targeted strategy and a long-term research investment needed to explore the links between the environment and breast cancer. Millions of women who are afflicted with breast cancer deserve the answers this legislation could yield.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to remove any obstacles and secure passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 757

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, will the Senator from Rhode Island, with whom I agree 100 percent, join me in a unanimous-consent request to pass this bill right now?

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we pass S. 757, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act of 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of another Senator, in my personal capacity as a Senator from the State of Louisiana, I object.

There is objection heard.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I join my colleague in expressing great regret that once again the women of America have been blocked from having the additional help that this bill would provide. I applaud those of us who have tried on a bipartisan basis to pass this very important bill to increase research between the possible links of breast cancer and the environment and to include peer review grant programs within the National Institutes of Health and make sure that consumers and researchers and victims of breast cancer are part of determining how we spend money in order to try to prevent, treat, cure, and ultimately abolish the horrible disease of breast cancer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Arizona is recognized. Under the previous agreement, the Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I shall not take that much time, but I do think it is important to speak to the issue before us, which is adoption of the House bill which takes another step toward securing our border. This is something the American people have been wanting us to do for a long time.

What we will also be doing today, in fact, some of our actions in the past weeks have also supplemented, is to pass the money, the appropriations bills that we need to fund all of the things that we need to be doing to secure the borders. I will speak to both of those items.

The key to the House bill is to state a commitment that we are going to put the kind of infrastructure on the border that we need to secure the border. It starts with fencing, but it doesn't end with fencing. It includes vehicle barriers because much of the illegal entry into the United States now is accomplished by vehicles. It includes technology, such as cameras and sensors and other means of identifying people who are crossing our border illegally.

Some people say that we don't need a fence or these infrastructure barriers because someday we are going to adopt comprehensive immigration reform, and when we take away the magnet of illegal employment, then we are not going to have the problem anymore. That is my fervent hope with respect to the people who cross the border to gain employment here. But the sad reality is that even if we solve that problem—and we haven't gotten very far down the road because we haven't adopted comprehensive immigration reform yet—even if we were to accomplish that in the future, we still have a very high percentage of people coming across the border whom we don't want here no matter what.

What am I speaking of? I am speaking of drug dealers, drug cartel members, gang members, and criminals, people wanted for crime, people who have committed crime, much of it very serious crime. As a matter of fact, before the subcommittee I chair on terrorism and homeland security, the head of the Border Patrol testified a few months ago that over 10 percent of the people apprehended for crossing our border illegally have criminal records, and many of these are serious criminal records.

In fact, the statistics for this fiscal year, which is almost over, show that the percentage is closer to about 13 to 14 percent, and of those a significant number have committed serious crimes.

Here are the statistics year to date: Over 1 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended on the southwest border. Of that number, almost half have come through Arizona, the Yuma and Tucson sectors, so far about 475,000. And of the illegal immigrants apprehended crossing our border to date in this fiscal year, 141,000-plus have criminal histories. Of that number, well over 20,000 are considered to have committed major crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, sexual assault, robbery, assault, dealing in dangerous drugs, and the like.

A fence, barriers to illegal entry into this country are important not just to ensure that we enforce our laws with respect to employment but to keep out people who would do our citizens harm. The papers in my State are full of stories every week of people who came to this country illegally and then committed crimes on citizens of the United States and on other illegal immigrants. It is not at all uncommon to see stories